

which [are connected to] connect with each other when the cover is in engagement with the coil base so as to substantially completely enclose the coil windings.

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4. (amended) A ballast as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the ends of the cover [are interconnected by means of a snap connection] connect with each other by one or more snap connections.

REMARKS

As required by the Examiner, the Abstract has been amended to conform with U.S. practice. Also, the specification has been amended to include appropriate headings and improve the idiomatic English.

The Examiner objected that the coil windings specified in the claims must be shown in the drawings pursuant to Rule 1.83(a). Accordingly, Applicant proposes to amend Fig. 4 as shown in red on the enclosed copy thereof to schematically show where the coil windings 115 are located. A corresponding reference thereto has been added on page 4 in the description of Fig. 4. Upon approval by the Examiner, formal drawings as so corrected will be submitted after allowance.

Claim 2 was rejected as indefinite because the external insulation of the connection member was considered by the Examiner to be inadequately described. Also, claims 1 and 3 were rejected as anticipated by Witchger (USP 4,291,292). Claims 1 and 2 have

now been combined and rewritten as new claim 5 in which the claimed structure is particularly and distinctly pointed out, including drawing reference numerals where that appeared to be helpful. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to be consistent with new claim 5 on which they are dependent.

In regard to the rejection of former claim 1 as anticipated by Witchger, replacing claim 5 now presented specifies that the cover (20) is an insulating synthetic resin and that it includes as a part thereof an external insulator (25) which engages a connection member (250) of the coil base (10). See specification page 3, lines 29-30 and lines 33-34. The dielectric support strip 31 in Witchger does not include an external insulator which engages a connection member of the coil base. Accordingly, claim 5 patentably distinguishes from that reference, and consequently claims 3 and 4 also distinguish therefrom by virtue of dependence on claim 5.

Former claim 2, now included as part of claim 5, was rejected as unpatentable over Witchger in view of Sugiura (USP 5,153,550). Sugiura discloses a coil bobbin 11 in combination with a terminal holder 12, but there is no teaching of a coil cover which includes an insulator which engages a connection member of the coil bobbin. Accordingly, claim 5 clearly patentably distinguishes from the combination of Witchger with Sugiura.

Claim 4 was rejected as unpatentable over Witchger in view of Leach (USP 4,363,014), which the Examiner construed as disclosing a snap connection (16) for a coil bobbin cover (14). However,

Applicant's claim 4 specifies a snap connection between both ends of the cover, which clearly is not true of the rigid cover 14 in Leach. Also note that numeral (16) in Leach denotes a cover (Col. 5, lines 25 and 47). It is therefore clear that Leach does not disclose a cover which folds over the coil base and having ends which snap together as required by Applicant's claim 4.

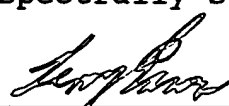
Other art of record

Applicant has reviewed the six additional references which were made of record but not relied upon, and does not believe that any of such art discloses or suggests a ballast as claimed herein.

Conclusion

For the above reasons, it is believed that as now presented this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By  ✓
Leroy Eason, Reg. 17,391
Consulting Patent Attorney
(914) 333-9632
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